

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6378

S E C R E T MOSCOW 11156

NODIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: ASEC, AMED, EUR

SUBJECT: MOSCOW SIGNAL FACT SHEET

FOR EAGLEBURGER

REF: STATE 168551, PARA 4,

1. THE FACT SHEET HAS BEEN WELL RECEIVED BY A MAJORITY OF EMBASSY PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES. SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS HAVE SPECIFICALLY EXPRESSED THEIR SATISFACTION AND OTHERS HAVE DONE SO LESS FORMALLY IN THE COURSE OF CONVERSATIONS. THERE REMAINS A SMALL GROUP OF PERHPAS A DOZEN EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE LIVING IN THE EMBASSY, WHO CONTINUE TO EXPRESS SKEPTICISM OR DISSATISFACTION. IN GENERAL THEY DOUBT WHETHER ALL OF THE RELEVANT FACTS AND INFORMATION HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE. HOWEVER, EVEN IN THIS SMALL GROUP MUCH OF THE PREVIOUS EMOTIONAL REACTION HAS EBBED AWAY. THERE IS, OF COURSE, CONSIDERABLE DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT COMPLETELY SHUT OFF THE MICROWAVE RADIATION. ALL IN ALL THE FACT SHEET SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL AND TO HAVE QUIETED THE LINGERING DOUBTS OF A MAJORITY OF EMPLOYEES AND FAMILIES ASSIGNED HERE.

2. HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD BE AWARE OF A POTENTIALLY SERIOUS PROBLEM ON THE HORIZON. AS YOU KNOW, TWO YOUNG CHILDREN (UNDER AGE 4) WERE MEDICALLY EVACUATED TO THE UNITED STATES FOR TESTS CONCERNING BLOOD ANOMALIES. ONE OF THESE CHILDREN HAS RETURNED TO MOSCOW AFTER SUCESSFULLY PASSING THE RELEVANT MEDICAL TESTS.

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THE OTHER CHILD IS NOT EXPECT TO RETURN TO POST AND WILL UNDERGO

TREATMENT IN THE US.

3. IN ADDITION TO THOSE TWO CHILDREN, THERE ARE TWO ADDITIONAL CHILDREN WITH BLOOD ANOMALIES OF SUFFICIENT SERIOUSNESS TO INDICATE FURTHER CLINICAL INVESTIGATION. DR. JOHNSON BELIEVES THAT ONE CAN WAIT FOR THE NORMAL TRANSFER OF HER FAMILY TO THE US IN EARLY SEPTEMBER. HE IS 99 PERCENT CERTAIN, HOWEVER, THAT THE OTHER CHILD WILL HAVE TO BE EVACUATED IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS.

4. THE EVACUATION OF ANOTHER CHILD IS LIKELY TO BE A SEVERE SET-BACK TO PROGRESS IN ALLEVIATING EMPLOYEE ANXIETY. ALL FOUR CHILDREN CONCERNED ARE YOUNG (LESS THAN 4 YEARS OF AGE) AND ALL LIVE IN THE CENTRAL WING OF THE EMBASSY. DURING THE PAST YEAR EIGHT YOUNG CHILDREN HAVE RESIDED IN THE CENTRAL WING AND FOUR OF THEM HAVE BLOOD ANOMALIES. THE STATISTICAL PROBABILITY AGAINST THESE BEING INDEPENDENT OCCURRENCES SEEMS VERY HIGH INDEED. IF AS SEEMS LIKELY NOW, IT BECOMES NECESSARY TO EVACUATE ANOTHER CHILD, THIS FACT WILL INEVITABLY AND QUICKLY BECOME KNOWN TO THE REST OF THE EMBASSY COMMUNITY. (IN THIS CONTEXT DR. POLLACK'S COMMENTS ABOUT A PREVIOUSLY EVACUATED CHILD, AS QUOTED BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS LAST WEEK, WERE SINGULARLY UNHELPFUL.)

5. IN SUM, WHILE WE HAVE MADE VERY CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS IN DEALING WITH EMPLOYEE ANXIETY AND CONCERN, THE PROBLEM COULD FLARE UP AGAIN UNLESS WE CAN FIND OUT QUICKLY WHY THERE ARE BLOOD ANOMALIES IN SEVERAL CHILDREN LIVING IN THE EMBASSY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, HEALTH, MEDICAL CARE, DATA, BRIEFING MATERIALS, NUCLEAR HAZARDS, EMBASSIES, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW11156
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: FOR EAGLEBURGER
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840104-2048
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760755/aaaabwny.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Reference: 76 STATE 168551
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <07 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOSCOW SIGNAL FACT SHEET
TAGS: ASEC, AMED, UR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006